

TABLE OF CONTENTS



Page 1

- I. Legislation continues to move despite end of session

Page 2

- II. Health Care Reform Bill

Page 3

- I. Scholarships
- II. Free Tax Preparation
- III. Intern Spotlight

Page 4

- I. Community Events
- II. Contact Information

THROUGH THE LENS



Senator Taylor with her colleague Rep. Barbara Toles (D-Milwaukee)

4th Senate District LEGISLATIVE UPDATE SENATOR LENA C. TAYLOR

WEEK OF MARCH 22 — MARCH 26

Welcome to my Legislative Update!

I'm State Senator Lena C. Taylor and this is my legislative update. If you do not wish to receive my weekly update, please let me know at sen.taylor@legis.wisconsin.gov.

- Legislative Session Nears End, Committees Work on Major Bills-

As the Legislature nears the end of the session, committees are busy working on major pieces of legislation. This time of the year is often called the "silly season" in the legislature as the rules declare bills dead if not fully passed by the end of session. It's a lot like a race against time!

Legislation that is vitally important to the people of the 4th district is working its way through the legislative process. SB 393 and AB 875 — The Minority Business Growth and Development Act, received public hearings in the Senate and Assembly this past week. This bill will restore the Minority Business Grant and Loan Program in the Department of Commerce that was consolidated into the Forward Innovation Fund in the budget bill. The MBDG program creates over 2700 jobs in its lifetime and retained over 1,000 more. Unfortunately, the department of Commerce took eight and a half months to create the new program rules and hasn't created one job since that time. I think it's a good idea to go back to the program that works.

Also receiving public hearings and votes in committee this week was the Wisconsin Employer Assisted Housing Act, SB 534 and AB 817. This bill creates a tax credit for employers that provide housing benefits to employees. Such kind of laws provide for less transit congestion, urban renewal, and sustainable housing for employees. A successful program has been operating in Illinois and has led to great strides in urban renewal and neighborhood redevelopment. The bill was reported out of the Senate Housing Committee earlier in the week and the Assembly Committee on Housing held a public hearing on the bill on Wednesday.

Also this week, the Senate Judiciary Committee moved forward on major legislation to obtain DNA samples from released offenders as required by the law. This is a historic bipartisan piece of legislation that is supported by Attorney General JB Van Hollen and DOC Secretary Rick Raemisch. I has the opportunity to testify with both.



MANNERS MOMENT



Dana World-Patterson
Visions Etiquette Training
visionsetiquettetraining.com

Cell phone usage is a personal affair, whether, you are taking care of business or a personal matter. If you **must** initiate or receive a call, excuse yourself, keep ringer on vibrate, and maintain a volume that is not intrusive. Courtesy is always first priority.

FROM THE BAR

Pro Se

prep. Latin for "for himself."

Ex: A party to a lawsuit who represents himself, without a lawyer, is appearing in the court case "pro se."

-New Health Care Regulations-

Here is some information to help you understand some of the reforms and changes that will be coming as a result of the new Federal health care reform regulations. This is just a few important highlights

Health Insurance Exchanges:

- The uninsured and self-employed would be able to purchase insurance through state-based exchanges with subsidies available to individuals and families with income between the 133 percent and 400 percent of poverty level.
- Separate exchanges would be created for small businesses to purchase coverage - effective 2014.

Funding available to states to establish exchanges within one year of enactment and until January 1, 2015

Medicare:

- Closes the Medicare prescription drug "donut hole" by 2020. Seniors who hit the donut hole by 2010 will receive a \$250 rebate.
- Beginning in 2011, seniors in the gap will receive a 50 percent discount on brand name drugs. The bill also includes \$500 billion in Medicare cuts over the next decade.

Medicaid:

- Expands Medicaid to include 133 percent of federal poverty level which is \$29,327 for a family of four.
- Requires states to expand Medicaid to include childless adults starting in 2014.
- Federal Government pays 100 percent of costs for covering newly eligible individuals through 2016.

Illegal immigrants are not eligible for Medicaid.

Insurance Reforms:

- Six months after enactment, insurance companies could no longer denying children coverage based on a preexisting condition.
- Starting in 2014, insurance companies cannot deny coverage to anyone with pre-existing conditions.
- Insurance companies must allow children to stay on their parent's insurance plans until age 26th.

Individual Mandate:

- In 2014, everyone must purchase health insurance or face a \$695 annual fine. There are some exceptions for low-income people.

Employer Mandate:

- Technically, there is no employer mandate. Employers with more than 50 employees must provide health insurance or pay a fine of \$2000 per worker each year if any worker receives federal subsidies to purchase health insurance. Fines applied to entire number of employees minus some allowances.

For more information on health care reform, please see http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-503544_162-20000846-503544.html
-Summaries by Cnn News.

HEALTH CORNER



The **City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD)** operates clinics at Keenan, Northwest and South Side Health Centers. The centers deal with insurance, STD, WIC, and general health issue. For walk-in appointments please call
414-286-8630

Keenan Health Center,
3200 N. 36th St.

Northwest Health Center, 7630 W. Mill Rd.

Southside Health Center, 1639 S. 23rd St.

WORD OF THE WEEK

“Do more than belong: participate.

Do more than care: help.

Do more than believe: practice.

Do more than be fair: be kind.

Do more than forgive: forget.

Do more than dream: work.”

William Arthur Ward,
Pastor

-Scholarship for Young Ladies -

The National Foundation for Women Legislatures and the National Rifle Association are co-sponsoring their thirteenth annual Bill of Rights Essay Contest for college-bound female high school juniors and seniors. The contest's seven winners will each receive a \$3,000 college scholarship and an all expenses paid trip to the NFWL's Annual Conference November 18– 22, 2010.

Entries must be received or postmarked no later than July 30, 2010, after which an NFWL selection committee will judge each essay and determine the seven winners. The judges will Primarily weigh the factors of storytelling, understanding of the Bill of Rights, and original insight.

For more information please e-mail: scholarships@womenlegislators.org or visit www.womenlegislators.org

-Free Tax Preparation-

All taxpayers making less than \$57,000 can visit www.irs.gov and use the industry's top tax preparation software for free. Users get the step-by-step help they need to prepare, complete and file federal tax returns online – at no cost.

Additionally, taxpayers who use Free File with direct deposit may receive refunds in as little as 10 days—a welcome financial boost for struggling families in this economic climate.

The program is made possible through a partnership between the IRS and the Free File Alliance – a group of industry-leading tax software providers. Since 2003, the Free File program has delivered free tax services to more than 25 million people.

To learn more, please get in touch or visit www.freefilealliance.org.

- Intern Spotlight-

Hello, my name is Natalie Holzwart. I am a freshman studying political science and international studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. My academic interests include legislation, and foreign and public policy, while my personal interests include a great love of traveling. My dream career would allow me to travel the world and observe legislation and policy through a global spectrum.

I am originally from the Northwest Suburbs of Chicago, but now feel truly at home in the vibrant city of Madison, Wisconsin. Each day working for Senator Taylor is an exciting learning experience of state government policymaking and politics. I am sincerely thankful for this wonderful opportunity to learn and grow in the field of politics. I will continue to work with constituents to offer any help I can to promote policy and peace in this great state of Wisconsin!

Interested in an internship?

Contact the office at
608-266-5810
for more information and to apply!

Team Taylor



Eric Peterson
Chief of Staff



Deidra Edwards
Executive Assistant



Alan Charles
Constituent Relations Director



Christopher Gibbs
Policy & Legal Advisor



Revella Walls
Office Manager

**WE ARE HERE TO
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**Senator Taylor's
Website:**

www.senatortaylor.com

Community Events

What: American Classics Sym-
phony Concert

When: March. 28th
10 am—4pm

Where: 144 E. Wells St.

Info: Music of two American
Composers. Cost: \$14 dollars, \$8
kids & Seniors

What: Haiti Relief & Cultural
Event

When: March 29th
5pm to 9pm

Where: 2900 N. Menomonee
River Parkway

Info: Free lecture, perform-
ances, and traditional meal.

If an organization you belong to has an event you feel should be included in
the Community Events section please [e-mail](#) me.

Do you have a computer? **Do you need help with food, prescriptions, or other
services?** Use www.access.wi.gov to see if you and your family are eligible for a
variety of state-sponsored services designed to assist citizens in procuring essential
resources.

Useful Resources

Child Support Enforcement
414-278-5160

Elder link
414-289-6874

Governor Doyle
414-227-4344

**Employment Ways to Work
Program**
414-906-2820

Senior Care Insurance
1-800-657-208

Senior Law
(414) 278-1222
(414) 278-7722

Energy Assistance
414-906-2800

Rent Assistance
414-286-5678

**Coalition of Wisconsin Aging
Groups Prescription Drug
Assistance**
1-866-456-8211

Food Assistance
414-773-0211

Bureau of Child Welfare
414-220-SAFE

City of Wauwatosa
414-479-8900

GED Program
414-264-6888

W-2
1-800-722-2295

Milwaukee Common Council
414-286-2221

City of Glendale
414-228-1700

Badger Care Insurance
1-800-362-3002

**US Congresswoman
Gwen Moore**
414-297-1140

**SENATE CONTACTS
Sergeant-at-Arms Office**
608-266-1801

**Milwaukee County Economic
Support**
414-289-6000

US Senator Russ Feingold
414-276-7282

General County Resources
Dial 2-1-1

Wisconsin Foreclosure Hotline
414-278-1240

Medicaid
1-800-291-2002

US Senator Herb Kohl
414-297-4451

or
1-866-211-3380